PLAYER'S GUIDE

CONFLUX



THE SHARDS COLLIDE

As you explore the *Conflux*[™] set—the second set in the *Shards of Alara*[™] block you'll find that the plane is undergoing some . . . changes. Specifically, the five individual shards of the plane are barreling into each other, merging together into a single realm again. Naturally, that fusion is reflected in the *Conflux* set's themes and cards.

Illus. Zoltan Boros & Gabor Szikszai

The Great Divide

The *Shards of Alara* set introduced this fractured plane's five shards: Bant, Esper, Grixis, Jund, and Naya (see pages 11–13). Within each shard, only three colors of mana existed, meaning that each one had its own distinctive play style. These mechanics continue in the *Conflux* set—if you've already got a Bant deck, for example, you'll certainly find some new goodies for it here!

Delve a bit deeper, and you'll find whole new strains of magic at work. As the Alara inhabitants realize that there are *five* colors of mana, not just three, they start to take advantage of the power inherent in the full spectrum—and so can you!



All for One and One for All

One of the primary methods to harness this new power is with "domain." Each card with this popular mechanic (first seen in the Invasion[™] set) ramps up in power based on the number of basic land types you've got among your lands in play. If you've got some Mountains and Forests, for example, your domain spell will be so-so. Add an Island and a Swamp, and now you're cooking. Go all the way with a Plains too, and you'll be churning up some maxed-out spells!

When outsiders interrupted the matca A more straightforward way to make use of all five colors is with cards that require * • • • • to play! * • ♥ ≥ ♥ is often pronounced "WOO-berg," because the symbols are written as "WUBRG" in plain text. Since Sliver Queen-the first * 6 ?? Card-appeared in the Stronghold[™] set, only twenty-two other cards have been printed with mana costs or alternative costs that include all five colors . . . and six of them are in this set! If a card has the audacity to require all five colors, it's got to be worth the effort. Well, from Maelstrom Angel's promise of free spells, to Worldheart Phoenix's eternal resurrection, to Progenitus's "protection from everything," these cards pack a powerful punch. Add in a few cards with * • • • activated abilities, and playing all five colors has never been so tempting!

Matca Rioters

Doman Matca Koters's power and toughness are each equal to the minimum of hasin land time among

and toughness are each equal to un number of basic land types among

lands you control.

NUMB Whenever Macletrom Archangel deals Whenever Maelstrom Archangel deals combar damage to a player, you may play a nonland card from your hand play a nonland card from your hand Flying ay a nontano caro from your ithout paying its mana cost. here is no world where angels fear to tread

Maelstrom Archangel

The Fix Is In

The Conflux set clearly dares you to play all five colors. But does it help you play all five colors? Absolutely! The Shards of Alara set was designed around the concept of three-color decks. If you're already playing three colors, jumping to five isn't that hard, especially if you need only one or two basic lands of each other type to give your domain cards a boost or help you play a So Co Co Spell.

THE TEN COOLEST CONFLUX CARDS

by Mike Turian, Conflux lead developer



Legendary Creature — Hydra Avatar

If Progenitus would be put into a If Progenitus would be put into a graveyard from anywhere, reveal Progenitus and shuffle it into its owner's library instead. The Soul of the World has returned

10/10

on

Ren

3/1

Protection from everything

Hellspark Elemental

Creature - Elemental

Unearth 1 2 (1 2: Return this co nd to play. It gains haste me at end of turn or if t

Unearth only as a

Trample, haste At end of turn, sacrifice Hellspark

rogenitus

1. Nicol Bolas, Planeswalker

The biggest threat to Alara is also the biggest threat to your opponents. After stealing their creatures and destroying their other permanents, Nicol Bolas's ultimate ability drops on them with skull-crushing force. Bring out Nicol Bolas and watch him crush enemies in his claws.

2. Malfegor

⁴ by one When Malfegor comes into play, discard your hand, Each opponent sacrifices a your component sacrifices a relative for each card discarded this way.

Noble Hierarch

e. th

ature gets +1/+1

0/

mot be trusted, and a dragon

6/6

Your hand is a small price to pay for the power Malfegor offers. Your opponents will be crying as they're forced to sacrifice their creatures. This underling of Nicol Bolas sends his condolences to those weaklings: boo hoo.

3. Progenitus

The elves of Alara made a good decision when they chose Progenitus as their god. Nothing will stop Progenitus once it finds its way onto the battlefield.

4. Noble Hierarch

The Bant mage will do well with Noble Hierarch. Use its mana ability to power out bigger and better creatures every turn, then watch as your Noble Hierarch buffs the creature that attacks alone.

5. Hellspark Elemental

Hellspark Elemental provides a one-two punch . . . with itself! Following in the pattern of Hell's Thunder in the Shards of Alara set, Hellspark Elemental comes out, smacks your opponent, and then returns for a second beating. Mix in some red burn spells, and your opponent will be toast in no time.



Surcery Put X 1/1 white Soldier creature tokens into play. If X is 5 or more, destroy all other creatures. Their tear forgotten, the nations of Bant spod united in the face of a common togat.

6. Thornling

Thornling does it all! It doesn't wait to come across and trample your opponent into the ground. Indestructible? Yep. Thornling teaches your opponents that they have no chance against your powerful green deck.

7. Martial Coup

What goes great with a bunch of 1/1 Soldiers? How about killing all the other creatures in play to give them an empty battlefield! You can use Martial Coup early to stay in the game, but once you get to seven or more mana, the wrath of the soldiers will be felt.



Exploding Borders

8. Exploding Borders

Domain cards are a big part of the *Conflux* set. Exploding Borders allows you to get a land with the basic land type that you need to boost your domain count closer to five, and then the rest of the spell punishes your opponent for each different basic land type you control. Try it with Matca Rioters and Strength of Shards for ultimate domain power!



Target opponent reveals cards from the top of his or her library until he or her or her library until he of her or her all way to her of her all way and her of his or her and her of her her of her and her of her of her of her and her of her of her of her of her and her of her of her of her of her and her of her of her of her of her and her of her of her of her of her and her of her of her of her of her and her of her of her of her of her of her and her of her of her of her of her of her of her and her of her and her of her and her of her and her of he

9. Telemin Performance

When you play Telemin Performance, you'll steal one of your opponent's monsters to be your puppet. Against a deck without creature spells, things get even more interesting: the spell puts your opponent's entire library into the graveyard, and you'll win the next time the player misses a card draw! It's a win-win situation.

10. Fusion Elemental

Fusion Elemental combines the five **Magic™** colors into one badass creature. All of the planes of Alara needed to collide to create the giant Fusion Elemental. Now go grab all five colors and create your army.



main — Search your library for a basic d card, put that card into play taped, in shuffix your library. Exploding refers each of the second second second second refers the number of basic land types ong lands you control.

8/8

THE RISE OF NICOL BOLAS

Before the Mending, the ancient dragon planeswalker Nicol Bolas was one of the most powerful and sinister beings in the Multiverse. Now his power is slipping away from him—and he wants it back.

The Final Mending healed the time rifts of the plane of Dominaria, but the aftershocks caused deep changes to the structure of the Multiverse, altering the nature of the planeswalker spark. Nicol Bolas, suddenly shorn of his near-omnipotence, fled Dominaria in a rage, determined to find a way to restore his power and vast mystic knowledge.

It wasn't long before the shard-planes of Alara caught the dragon's attention. Where others saw five diverse worlds, Bolas saw a single, dark opportunity. He set up a lair on Grixis and launched a plan that would culminate in the restoration of his power.

Illus, D. Alexander Gregory

Illus. Matt Cavotta

Bolas recruited minions on each shard of Alara, filling their minds with prophecies that would lead them into open war when the time was right. On Bant, Bolas contacted the Order of the Skyward Eye and the ambitious merchant Gwafa Hazid, who eagerly accepted the task of spreading mistrust and petty battles among Bant's nations. On Esper, the Seekers of Carmot publicized the scarcity of etherium and the need for a crusade to seek sources of a red stone called carmot. Bolas's second-in-command, the demonic dragon abomination known as Malfegor, prepared armies of Grixis's undead, who now hunger for the life energy of the other worlds. On Jund, the elementalist shaman Rakka Mar encouraged the human clans to compete in savage "life hunts" of higher and higher stakes, priming them for the war to come. Bolas's

Illus. John Avon

most subtle manipulation may have occurred on Naya, where even the planeswalker Ajani, native to that plane, has not yet discovered the dragon's influence.

Bolas's message of fear and hatred burrowed insidiously through the minds and cultures of the five shards, instilling a universal paranoia about some hazy future disaster to come. Over the ensuing decades, the shard-worlds hurtled through the Blind Eternities, their denizens wholly unaware of their collision course, but ready for an onslaught. The dragon waited patiently for the day that each world would finally face the others.

Today, that day has come. The planes and magics of the five shards have slammed into one another, and in a violent act of creation, Alara has become one world once more.

But it is a volatile world. As the shards merge and overlap, chaos breaks out along every frontier, for Bolas's grim prophecies have become a reality. Primed for hostility and exposed to strange colors of mana and breathtaking magics they've never seen before, the cultures of the shards react on instinct, raising epic armies for all-out planar war.

It's world against world in the new Alara. And Nicol Bolas couldn't be more pleased.



Illus. Karl Kopinski

BOLAS'S MINIONS

If you were a cunning and ancient dragon planeswalker like Nicol Bolas, would you do your own dirty work? Of course not. You're the mastermind of the operation. The day-to-day labor of deploying your far-reaching schemes is beneath you. Besides, it's dangerous out there. Other planeswalkers are about; you have to keep a low profile. So instead, you persuade, intimidate, and overpower a suite of underlings into serving you, letting them slave away at the dirty work while you supervise from the safety of your lair, just as Nicol Bolas has done. What else are minions for?

Malfegor

Born of some unthinkable union of demon and dragon, the abomination known as Malfegor is the personification of evil and power. Malfegor serves as Nicol Bolas's general on Grixis, overseeing a vast army of undead to wage war on the Jund and Esper fronts. Malfegor knows his master will betray him one day, but he has not yet found an opening for his own betrayal.

Illus. Jason Chan

Gwafa Hazid

The wealthy merchant Gwafa Hazid leads the Grand Caravan, the greatest trade route through the countryside of Bant. Hazid is one of the most truly ambitious denizens of Bant, and he was easily tempted by Bolas's promises of power. Though he happily carries out Bolas's orders, he has no idea of the extent Bolas's plans or what they will mean for Bant.

Illus. Todd Lockwood

Rakka Mar

Rakka Mar is an elementalist shaman whose goal was to summon the mightiest elementals on savage Jund to do her bidding. Bolas has granted her ever more power over elementals in exchange for her influence over the Jund warrior clans. Rakka Mar gains a personal force of elementals of rage and fire, and Bolas gets an entire shard hungry for blood—everybody wins.

Illus. Jason Chan

Seekers of Carmot

A sect of mages called the Seekers of Carmot has espoused the belief that Esper is running out of etherium, and that the only way to create more is to find a red stone called carmot. Whether or not their message is genuine, the Seekers secretly serve Bolas, who has a vested interest in Esperites invading the other planes in their search for the stone.

COMBO CORNER

Bloodhall Ooze & Sprouting Thrinax

Bloodhall Ooze can rapidly grow into a giant Ooze. It just needs a little help getting started! Sprouting Thrinax, from the *Shards of Alara* set, will provide just the kick start your little Ooze needs since it's both black and green. Then if your opponent kills your Sprouting Thrinax, your Ooze will still keep growing thanks to the 1/1 green Saprolings the Thrinax leaves behind.

Nyxathid & Rotting Rats

Nyxathid is a giant 7/7 creature with a little problem: your opponent's hand. That's where Rotting Rats steps in for the combo help. When your Rotting Rat comes into play, Nyxathid's opponent of choice discards a card, making it grow stronger. If your Rotting Rats goes to the graveyard, you can use the card's unearth ability to bring them back once more to do it again!

Creature - Combine Ray 9 When Routing East comes into play Uncerth 1 = 0, -8. Routen this can be attend to play. I have a trans. A more si from the game incardit only at a material incardit only at a material incardit only at a material.

Inkwell Leviathan & Master Transmuter

Play out your Master Transmuter early in the game. The following turn, take a cheap artifact like Armillary Sphere and return it to your hand to pay for the Transmuter's activation. Your reward will be the ridiculously awesome Inkwell Leviathan. This giant 7/11 artifact creature is bad news for any opponent who faces it. Control an Island? No blocking for you! Trying to stall with some chump-blockers? Trample over them and smash you. Unsummon? Bone Splinters? They can't find this shrouded monstrosity. And if Master Transmuter manages to untap, it can always return Inkwell Leviathan to your hand if danger looms.

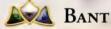
nkwell Leviatha

Bloodhall Ooz

FIVE WORLDS OF ALARA

The plane of Alara was a world rich with mana, a world in balance . . . until the Sundering. In a cataclysm of unimaginable proportions, Alara was rent asunder into five separate worlds, each a refraction of the others.

The Shards became very different places in the time since the Sundering. Each plane was all but severed from two of the five colors of mana. Only hints of a common ancestor plane remained on the five worlds, and their environments and denizens could hardly differ more.



Without the destructive or selfish impulses of red and black mana, Bant became a golden utopia. Angels rule the realm with benevolence and grace. Humans and aven resolve their conflicts with ritualized combat. Duty and honor are the bedrock of this kingdom of light.



Illus, Michael Komatck

CONFLUX 11



In this world of wind and wave, control is the guiding force. Cut off from the chaos of red and green mana, Esper became a land ruled by masters of arcane magic. Enigmatic sphinxes counsel powerful wizards and seers. Everything here is observed and controlled. The forces of high magic rule supreme.





What becomes of a world without new life? The dark wasteland of Grixis answers the question. Its denizens desperately cling to its remaining life force. Without the communal forces of green and white to bring life and compassion, it's every ghoul, demon, and necromancer for themselves.



Illus, Dave Kendall



In the absence of white or blue mana, Jund devolved into a roiling, primordial cesspit. Dragons top the food chain, at home in Jund's countless volcanoes. While they stalk the skies, the humans, viashino, and goblins of the world lie low in Jund's tar-spotted, vine-choked canyons.



Illus, Raymond Swanland



Life, passion, community, and the wild—these are what flourish without the influence of black or blue mana. In this lush land, life is celebrated. Instinct triumphs over machination. Titanic predators are shown respect, while humans, elves, and leonin seek to revere and respect nature.



Illus. Christopher Moeller

THE SHARDS AT WAR

The five shards of Alara have merged into a single plane. The Conflux progresses gradually at first, with each shard overlapping only its two planar neighbors. The overlap allows strange colors of mana to flood into every world—and aggression follows closely behind. Suddenly each shard is fighting a war on two fronts against enemies who wield magics they've never seen before.

NAYA VS. JUND & BANT

Guided by the visions of the prophet Mayael, the elves, Nacatl leonin, and earthshaking behemoths of Naya march to war with Bant and Jund. Uncertainty taints the prophecies as they encounter stifling imperialism on one front, and primordial savagery on the other.

Illus, Jason Chan

BANT VS. NAYA & ESPER

Exposed to red and black mana for the first time, Bant's knights face terrifying magics and behemoths that demolish their principled code of war. Even the angels struggle to contain the avalanche of domination and aggression that now sweeps into the shard.

Illus. Greg Staples

ESPER VS. BANT & GRIXIS

Agents and mages of Esper venture forth on a crusade for carmot, said to be a crucial element in the creation of etherium. However, it's not long before Esper's enemies become adept with magic that shatters the very etherium that grants Esperites their superiority.

Illus. Howard Lyon

GRIXIS VS. ESPER & JUND

Tantalizing sources of green and white mana, the magic of life, are within Grixis's grasp for the first time in centuries. The demons and undead hordes, long starved for living victims, need no persuasion to invade the adjacent shards and consume their life essence.

JUND VS. GRIXIS & NAYA

Neiz I Luis

From the mightiest dragon to the lowliest goblin, all the creatures of Jund stalk and kill any prey that exhibits the slightest weakness. Faced with the new frontiers of Grixis and Naya, Jund expands its worldspanning hunt to embrace two entire worlds of fresh meat.

Illus. Daarken

Illus, Dan Scott

IGNITE YOUR SPARK

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CARD ENCYCLOPEDIA

The *Conflux* Card Encyclopedia shows the entire *Conflux* card set. To keep track of your cards, just turn to the checklist on pages 34–35.







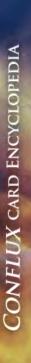














24 CONFLUX





CONFLUX CARD ENCYCLOPEDIA















CONFLUX CARD ENCYCLOPEDIA



CONFLUX CARD ENCYCLOPEDIA

CONFLUX 33

210



CARD CHECKLIST

WHITE

	2000 Aug 2000				
00	1	U	Aerie Mystics	(
00	2	С	Asha's Favor	(
00	3	С	Aven Squire	(
00	4	С	Aven Trailblazer		
00	5	U	Celestial Purge	(
00	6	С	Court Homunculus	(
00	7	С	Darklit Gargoyle	(
00	8	С	Gleam of Resistance	(
00	9	С	Lapse of Certainty	(
00	10	R	Mark of Asylum	(
00	11	R	Martial Coup	(
00	12	Μ	Mirror-Sigil Sergeant	1	
00	13	U	Nacatl Hunt-Pride		
00	14	U	Paragon of the		
			Amesha	1	
00	15	U	Path to Exile		
00	16	С	Rhox Meditant		
00	17	R	Scepter of Dominance		
00	18	R	Sigil of the Empty		
			Throne		
00	19	С	Valiant Guard		
00	20	R	Wall of Reverence		
BLUE					
	21	C	Brackwater Elemental		
00			Constricting Tendrils		
00		~	Constructing rendrins		

	00	23	U	Controlled Instincts
	00	24	U	Cumber Stone
	00	25	U	Esperzoa
	00	26	M	Ethersworn
r				Adjudicator
	00	27	С	Faerie Mechanist
ulus	00	28	С	Frontline Sage
le	00	29	С	Grixis Illusionist
tance	00	30	R	Inkwell Leviathan
nty	00	31	R	Master Transmuter
n	00	32	С	Parasitic Strix
	00	33	R	Scepter of Insight
rgeant	00	34	U	Scornful Æther-Lich
ride	00	35	R	Telemin Performance
	00	36	С	Traumatic Visions
	00	37	С	Unsummon
	00	38	U	View from Above
	00	39	С	Worldly Counsel
ninance				
pty	BLACK			
	00	40	С	Absorb Vis
	00	41	U	Corrupted Roots

- OI 41 U Corrupted F OI 42 C Drag Down
 - OI 43 U Dreadwing
 - OD 44 R Extractor Demon
 - OD 45 U Fleshformer
 - OD 46 U Grixis Slavedriver

C Infectious Horror 00 47 00 48 R Kederekt Parasite OD 49 R Nyxathid 50 C Pestilent Kathari 00 OD 51 C Rotting Rats 52 C Salvage Slasher 00 ○□ 53 R Scepter of Fugue OD 54 C Sedraxis Alchemist OD 55 U Voices from the Void OD 56 C Wretched Banquet OD 57 C Yoke of the Damned

RED

ILL P			
DC	58	R	Banefire
DC	59	R	Bloodhall Ooze
	60	С	Canyon Minotaur
00	61	С	Dark Temper
	62	U	Dragonsoul Knight
00	63	С	Fiery Fall
00	64	R	Goblin Razerunners
00	65	U	Hellspark Elementa
00	66	U	Ignite Disorder
00	67	С	Kranioceros
00	68	С	Maniacal Rage
00	69	С	Molten Frame

- OD 70 C Quenchable Fire
- OD 71 R Rakka Mar



O 72 C Toxic Iguanar	MULTICOLORED	OI 123 U Scarland Thrinax
O 73 U Viashino	OD 98 M Apocalypse Hydra	O 124 U Shambling Remains
Slaughtermaster	O 99 R Blood Tyrant	O 125 U Skyward Eye Prophets
OI 74 U Volcanic Fallout	OI 100 R Charnelhoard Wurm	O 126 U Sludge Strider
OD 75 R Voracious Dragon	OI 101 M Child of Alara	OI 127 R Sphinx Summoner
OD 76 C Wandering Goblins	OI 102 M Conflux	O 128 C Suicidal Charge
OD 77 R Worldheart Phoenix	Ol 103 U Countersquall	O 129 U Vagrant Plowbeasts
	OD 104 U Elder Mastery	OI 130 C Valeron Outlander
GREEN	OI 105 C Esper Cormorants	O 131 C Vectis Agents
O 78 C Beacon Behemoth	OD 106 C Exploding Borders	OII 132 C Vedalken Outlander
O 79 R Cliffrunner Behemoth	O 107 U Fusion Elemental	OI 133 C Zombie Outlander
O 80 R Cylian Sunsinger	OI 108 R Giltspire Avenger	
O 81 C Ember Weaver	OII 109 C Goblin Outlander	COLORLESS ARTIFACTS
O 82 V Filigree Fracture	OI 110 R Gwafa Hazid,	O 134, C Armillary Sphere
OB 83 U Gluttonous Slime	Profiteer	OI 135 C Bone Saw
Ol 84 C Matca Rioters	O 111 U Hellkite Hatchling	OD 136 R Font of Mythos
O 85 C Might of Alara	OD 112 U Jhessian Balmgiver	OI 137 C Kaleidostone
O 86 C Nacatl Savage	OI 113 R Knight of the	OI 138 C Mana Cylix
O 87 R Noble Hierarch	Reliquary	OI 139 U Manaforce Mace
OB 88 R Paleoloth	O 114 U Knotvine Mystic	OI 140 R Obelisk of Alara
OD 89 U Sacellum Archers	OD 115 M Maelstrom Archangel	
OD 90 C Scattershot Archer	OI 116 R Magister Sphinx	LANDS
O 91 U Shard Convergence	OD 117 M Malfegor	
OD 92 R Soul's Majesty	OI 118 R Meglonoth	O□ 141 U Ancient Ziggurat O□ 142 R Exotic Orchard
O 93 U Spore Burst	OD 119 C Nacatl Outlander	
O 94 C Sylvan Bounty	OI 120 M Nicol Bolas,	OD 143 U Reliquary Tower
OI 95 M Thornling	Planeswalker	OI 144 C Rupture Spire
O 96 C Tukatongue Thallid	OD 121 M Progenitus	Ju 145 U Unstable Ffontier
O 97 C Wild Leotau	Old 122 C Rhox Bodyguard	

M = Mythic rare R = Rare U = Uncommon C = Common O = Regular card = Premium card

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Illus. Jason Chan







Thirst for Knowledge

Draw three cards. Then discard two cards unless you discard an artifact

a vessel

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